



# DOC NEWS ONLINE

A publication of the D.C. Department Of Corrections

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## K-9 UNIT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING COURSE

Department of Corrections K-9 Unit members were honored recently during a graduation ceremony for successfully completing a comprehensive 10-week training course.

Corporals **Terrance Wilson** and **David Thomas**, and their dogs, Cody and Caesar, were trained in drug search and detection techniques at the Maryland State Division of Corrections K-9 Headquarters in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The officers training included tactical deployment procedures. In order to graduate the dogs had to learn the various scents of the drugs they were expected to detect. At the graduation ceremony, the handlers and their dogs demonstrated some of the practices and techniques associated with efficient search and drug detection.

"I feel extremely confident that my dog Caesar is ready for duty," said Corporal Wilson. "During the field training exercises he was very aggressive and never showed any hesitation."

K-9 Units are used in the DOC to maintain control and security of the external and internal facilities. They also serve as a deterrent to trespassers. The addition of K-9 teams marks the first time dogs have been used since the close of Lorton in 2001.



Director Washington (center) attends the graduation ceremony of Cpl. Wilson and Caesar (left), and Cpl. Thomas and Cody (right).



Cpl. Wilson puts Caesar through his paces during a vehicle search.

## DOC IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD K-9 TEAM RECRUITS

DOC plans to purchase two additional patrol dogs to further enhance security, and is recruiting to fill two dog handler positions within the correctional officer ranks of Sergeant and Corporal.

Interested applicants must have been employed with the agency for three consecutive years, and must submit a resume along with a one-page essay on why they want to become a member of the agency's Patrol Dog Unit.

For the complete listing of qualifications and additional information, please see the Open Letter *DOC OL04-32 November 4, 2004 (Recruitment for Patrol Dog Handlers)*, or call (202) 671-2044.

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**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**  
District of Columbia Government



**Odie Washington, Director**



## A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday where we often gather with family and friends to eat until our heart's content...*without feeling guilty!* It is also a time for each of us to be thankful for just how much we have.

During this season, I know many DOC employees will demonstrate the spirit of thanksgiving, caring and commitment to the community by participating in charitable drives, preparing food baskets for the less fortunate, serving meals in shelters, and contributing to the needy in so many other ways.

I am never surprised when I hear about your generosity toward strangers, because over the years I have seen the DOC workforce show just how much you care about each other. During the past several months, we have had several tragedies fall on members of our DOC family and in every case, department employees have stepped up to the plate, helping in every way possible--emotionally, financially, spiritually.

Your generous support and overwhelming concern for each other is something that we all can be thankful for. It makes me proud to be part of what is truly a DOC "family."

My wish for you and your family is a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

*Odie Washington*

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**Your input is important.**  
 DOC News Online encourages responses from its readers. Letters or other submissions should be E-mailed to: [docommunications@dc.gov](mailto:docommunications@dc.gov)

The Office of Communications reserves the right to edit all materials submitted.

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**Promotion Exam  
 for  
 Sergeants &  
 Lieutenants**

**November 20, 2004**

**Kelly Miller  
 Middle School  
 301 49th Street, N.E.  
 Washington, DC 20019**

### DOC STAFF UPDATES

Thanks to the recall, 60 correctional officers rejoined the department during September and October. The employees were separated from the agency during the closing of the Lorton Correctional Complex.

In September, the department said good-bye to seven retiring employees: correctional officers **Bernice Zanders**, **Lee Johnson** and **Linder Johnson**; material handler **Bobby Anderson**; correctional program officer **Irma Brady**; lead correctional officer **Lamont Wilson**; and legal instruments examiner, **Carol Johnson**.

Training Academy staff assistant, **Emilia Del Arroyo**, also left the department this past September to join another District government agency, the State Education Office. She says she is extremely busy in her position as a Bilingual Program Analyst in the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Office, but misses her friends at DOC. During her tenure at the department, Ms. Del Arroyo served on the Employee Recognition Committee and was named Employee of the Month for April 2003.



## SEARS GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORMS AT CTF

The nationally renowned **Sears Associate Gospel Choir** performed in concert for the male and female inmates of the D.C. Department of Corrections' contract Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) in September.

The choir consisting of approximately 60 members, who all work for the Illinois headquarters, was originally established in 1991 as part of Sears, Roebuck and Company's effort to develop and promote a good neighbor policy between the retail giant and its local communities. The choir has appeared in venues across the country

including the Cook County Jail, the Warrenville, Illinois Girls Juvenile Detention Center and numerous other corporate and civic organizations.



Inmates at CTF join in the spirit of the rousing songs by the Sears Associate Gospel Choir.

In addition to being featured in two nationally televised Sears commercials, the group recorded its first compact disc, "Songs of Celebration," in May 2001, and donated \$15,000 from the proceeds to the Annual Sears Coats for Kids Fundraiser which provides winter coats for low-income children in the Chicago area.

### DC Government Direct Deposit and Payroll Card Programs

**Deadline: Dec. 6, 2004**

### REMINDER!

All employees are required to receive their salary either through direct deposit into their bank accounts, or for those who do not have bank accounts, through bank-issued payroll cards. If you have not yet signed up, please contact **Lauraine Ellis**, FOP Executive Secretary, 202-497-5329, or **Paulette Hutchings Johnson**, Labor Relations Liaison, at 202-671-5329, for information and forms.

## DOC ATTENDS ANNUAL DSI USER GROUP CONFERENCE

Representatives from DOC attended the Digital Solutions, Inc. (DSI) annual User Group conference in Altoona, Pennsylvania, September 27 through October 1. DSI is the software company that created the Offender Management System (OMS) software, which is the heart of the JACCS (Jail and Community Corrections System) jail management system.

The conference provides an opportunity for clients to take part in the decision making process for implementing product changes. DOC is particularly interested in the sentencing, charges, bonds, and detainees modules in the OMS software. Having been a driving force in prompting DSI to enhance these modules, DOC was invited to discuss DSI's progress in making the changes. It is

expected that the modules will be implemented in the fall of 2005.

The agenda included an overview of Inmate Telephone Management System, a preview of the next software release, vendor product demonstrations, and OMS training sessions.

In addition, DSI staff assists in providing updates, product education and technology advancements to help users evaluate the efficiency of their facility/staff in utilizing the OMS software to its full potential.

Attendees included 144 DSI customers from 59 jail facilities throughout the country. Attendees ranged from junior correctional officers to wardens and program directors, and facilities in-

cluded some with as few as 75 beds and several with thousands of beds, including DOC.

This was the fourth DSI User Group that DOC has attended since launching JACCS in October 2000. DOC was well represented at the conference: **Keith Godwin**, Chief of Network Operations, Office of Management and Information Technology Services (OMITS); **Reena Chakraborty**, Statistician, OMITS; **Dennis Harrison**, Deputy Warden for Programs; **Edgar Haynes**, Chief, Records Office; **Cheryl Warner**, Special Assistant to the Chief, Records Office; Sergeant **George Hendrix**, Quality Assurance Staff, OMITS; and **Lee Gazlay**, Senior Jail Management Application Specialist, Anteon Corporation.

## CORRECTIONS' DESIRE FOR LOCAL CHAPTER DRIVES ACA MEMBERSHIP GOALS

The Department of Corrections is seeking staff to join the efforts to establish a local American Correctional Association (ACA) chapter.

Beginning this month, the agency will conduct an aggressive agency-wide effort to increase its membership with ACA, the world's oldest and largest international correctional association. A minimum of 150 members is needed to establish a separate chapter in ACA.

ACA promotes the professional development of individuals working in all aspects of corrections and exerts a positive influence on corrections and correctional effectiveness. Joining the organiza-

tion entitles members access to information on the latest trends and issues in the correctional field; opportunities to network with other corrections professionals; access to training seminars, discount programs, educational materials and publications; and a greater opportunity to have their voice heard in decision making issues

The membership drive is part of the agency's overall efforts in achieving success as a municipal detention system. The goal is 100 new ACA memberships from agency staff.

The Employee Recognition Committee will provide more details and membership forms throughout November.

### We Want To Hear From YOU!

Submit your answer to our

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

DOC NEWSONLINE is seeking input from **you**, our readers, by featuring this "Question of the Month" segment. Send us your answer to our question and it just might get published the next month.

In order to get you off to a quick start, here is our question for the month of November 2004:

#### What is one thing you want us to ask as "Question of the Month?"

What are you curious about? What question do you want to ask all of your colleagues? On what issue do you want to get someone else's opinion? It might be December's question.

**\* \* \* Send it in by November 19 \* \* \***

E-mail your responses to: [doccommunications@dc.gov](mailto:doccommunications@dc.gov)

or send to: DC Dept. of Corrections  
Office of Communications  
Grimke Headquarters  
1923 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

### Open Enrollment

November 8 through December 13, 2004  
**DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE**

- Change your health plan coverage
- Enroll in Short-term Disability Insurance Program
- Set up Flexible Spending accounts
- Add new dependents to the health plan

For Information:  
202-671-1300  
or  
[www.dcop.dc.gov](http://www.dcop.dc.gov)

## ONE FUND CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF SOWING SEEDS

This is the season of thanksgiving and sharing. Among District government employees, this season begins the annual **One Fund** Drive, the District government's only official fundraiser.

**One Fund** marks its golden anniversary this year with the theme "*50 Years of Sowing Seeds.*" The fund enables employees to share and make a difference in the lives of the needy through their contributions to local non-profit organizations.

The **One Fund** Drive officially starts at the District-wide kickoff event, which is planned for later this month. Employee participation determines the campaign's success and each contribution counts.

Your contribution is needed to meet the District-wide goal of \$1.5 million! Employees may contribute to one or several organizations. Donations can be made by cash, check or payroll deduction.

For more information about making your donation through **One Fund**, please contact Beverly Young at (202) 671-2135.

